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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

50X1-HUM

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 21 Sept. 1950

SUBJECT Alleged Training of Volkspolizei as
Parachutists at Erfurt/Bindersleben

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Since the middle of July 1950 parachuting exercises have been taking place almost daily at the airfield at Erfurt/Bindersleben. Dropping commences as soon as it is light and is carried on until shortly before dusk. The aircraft used in the exercises are twenty-two Dakotas which take off from and land on the Bindersleben field. The planes usually take off from the airfield, fly in formation over Erfurt, return over the field and drop seven parachutists in quick succession from each plane. The aircraft then circle out over Erfurt again, return and repeat the process. The dropping height was estimated at between 200 and 250 meters. No containers or other equipment are dropped. The parachutists are dressed in brown combination suits and carry no weapons.
2. According to local report, the parachutists are Volkspolizei personnel from the Bereitschaft stationed on the "Petersberg", Erfurt.*

* Comments: Volkspolizei personnel from Erfurt are frequently seen marching to and from the direction of Bindersleben. They often march out before dawn and return after dusk.

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